(b) by when the Brahmaputra Board's Master Plan is likely to be executed; and

(c) whether Government envisage to undertake Netherland type measures to check Brahmaputra by controlling its water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Government of India have established Brahmaputra Board for integrated planning of measures for the management of floods in the Brahmaputra Valley.

The Government of India has been extending Central Loan Assistance to the Government of Assam towards Flood Management Schemes. Since 1974-75, Rs. 173.5 crores have been released.

(b) Execution of a master plan depends on funds mobilised by the State Governments concerned and other agencies and the satisfactory resolving of inter-State issues.

(c) The conditions in the Netherlands are vastly different from the conditions in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Survey conducted by nutrition foundation of India

495. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Nutrition foundation of India for assessing the impact of development programmes on the health and nutrition of rural communities, and comparing the health status of tribal, rural and urban slum children; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The Nutrition Foundation of India had undertaken a study of some aspects of the working of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in seven regions of the country namely Haryana, U.P., M.P. (Jabalpur), West Bengal (Calcutta), Orissa, Karnataka & Maharashtra The major observations of the study are as under:

1. The U.P.-Haryana studies showed not only that poor communities in Haryana are better off but also that the rural development programmes there had apparently had a better effect on the communities concerned than the programmes in U.P.

2. The rural development programme in Karnataka had not made any spectacular impact on the communities.

3. The Jabalpur-Calcutta studies have shown that the problem of under nutrition among the children of poor communities in the country side has shown no sign of abatement.

4. It cannot be assumed that tribal children are more or less backward than rural children in all parts of the country.

5. Children of urban slums in both Calcutta and Jabalpur were certainly not strikingly better off than their rural counterparts. Urban migration had provided them salvation from proverty and under nutrition.

Termination of Services of Nurses

496. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of some of the Nurses in the Defence Department of the Director General of Medical Services have been terminated after their marriage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the termination order; if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Military nursing is a profession where total devotion to patient care is absolutely essential and marriage, with its commitments, makes it difficult for nurses to function in the military, especially in field conditions. Due to shortages in the Nursing Cadre in the past measures were taken since Jan. 1968, to retain nursing officers in service even after marriage if their performance of duties was satisfactory. This was achieved by granting them extensions in service for two years at a time. These shortages have been brought down now; hence, the existing policy was reviewed. In the interests of functional efficiency the services of only those married nurses whose performance is not satisfactory are now being terminated.

(c) No, Sir. In the last one year 45 nurses were not granted extensions in service due to their insatisfactory record. 16 of them have gone to Court and obtained stay orders. The final orders of the Court are awaited. Government maintains that the present policy, which permits retention of married nurses in service only if their performance is satisfactory in terms of laid down criteria, is in the interests of the particular needs of the armed forces.

Amassing of troops by Pakistan on Indian borders

497. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Newstime (Hyderabad) dated the 14th October, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Pakistan has been amassing its troops in Rajasthan—Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir borders;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have since been taken to meet the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news item. No unusual concentration of Pakistani troops in Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir has, however come to notice.

(c) Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Clearance of Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project

498. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since given investment clearance to Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project, if so, what issues were taken into consideration while giving the clearance;

(b) whether environmental and rehabilitation factors have been taken into account by the Planning Commission, if so, what are the commitments given by the Government of Gujarat for these purposes;

(c) by when the Project will be completed and what will be the estimated cost; and

(d) whether the Planning Commission has estimated the total benefit to be accrued from this Project including that of drinking water supply?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir, the investment clearance of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat was issued on 5-10-1988 taking into account its techno-economic viability as well as fulfilment of conditions laid down by the Ministry of Environment & Forest *vide* their OM